

Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Association

Week ending 7th June 2020

Cheshire News & Appeals



Latest Cheshire News

Three Ellesmere Port men charged with assault

Three men from Ellesmere Port have been charged with assault following an incident in the town.

A 25-year-old man from Ellesmere Port sustained facial injuries as a result of the incident, which occurred on Princes Road shortly before 12 midnight on Friday 29 May. The victim was taken to hospital in an ambulance and has since been discharged after receiving treatment. Nathan Elliott, 26, Matthew Philipson, 25, and Dylan Johnston, 25, have been arrested and charged with assaulting a person and causing them actual bodily harm in connection with the incident. Elliott, of Faraday Road, Whitby, Ellesmere Port; and Philipson, of Conway Court, Ellesmere Port; appeared at Warrington Magistrates' Court via video links on Monday 1 June. Elliott was remanded in custody and Philipson was released on conditional bail. Johnston, of no fixed address, appeared at Warrington Magistrates' Court via a video link on Thursday 4 June. He was remanded in custody. All three men are set to appear at Chester Crown Court on Monday 29 June.

Two men sentenced following serious assault in Tarporley

Two men who seriously assaulted an innocent member of the public at a public house in Tarporley have been sentenced.

Ben Starkey, 31, and Timothy Kirkham, 37, were part of a group of men out drinking at the Rising Sun on Saturday 2 November 2019. Following an unrelated matter the men were asked to leave the pub by the assistant manager. The group refused to leave so the pub's landlord was called to help eject them. On entering the room the landlord politely asked the group to leave. As he did so, he was approached by Starkey who grabbed him around the collar and a scuffle broke out between the pair. Upon seeing the disturbance the victim, a 46-year-old local man, walked over to see what was going on and attempted to help the landlord. As he intervened the man was repeatedly punched in the face by both Kirkham and Starkey. He was hit with such force that he knocked unconscious and fell to the floor. The fall caused the man to sustain a broken leg and dislocated ankle.

Starkey and Kirkham were both subsequently arrested and charged with section 20 assault. The pair pleaded guilty to the charge and appeared at Chester Crown Court on Wednesday 3 June for sentencing. Starkey, of Dalefords Lane, Marton, was sentenced to 12 months in prison, suspended for 18 months. He was also ordered to pay £10,000 compensation to the victim, complete 100 hours unpaid work and pay £200 costs. Kirkham, of Long Lane, Alpraham, was handed an 18 month prison sentence, suspended for 18 months. He was also ordered to pay £2,000 compensation to the victim, undertake 15 days rehabilitation, complete 150 hours unpaid work and pay £200 costs.

Following the sentencing Sergeant Paul Cundy, from Northwich Response Team, said: *"The victim in this case was an innocent member of the public who was simply trying to be a Good Samaritan. However, rather than*

leaving the pub as they has been asked to do, Kirkham and Starkey instead decided to start an altercation. As a result of their actions the victim sustained serious injuries, which have already had a profound impact and will affect him for the rest of his life. What made this attack even worse was that it was witnessed by the victim's partner and seven-year-old stepson, who both had to watch as he lay unconscious on the floor. Thankfully Kirkham and Starkey have now been brought to justice and are facing the consequences of their actions. I hope that their sentencing will provide some closure to the victim and his family and allow them to move forward with their lives."

Ellesmere Port man jailed for drugs offences

An Ellesmere Port man has been jailed after admitting possession with intent to supply Class A drugs in Chester.

Kyle Phillips, 23, of Church Street, Ellesmere Port appeared at Liverpool Crown Court on 2 June and was sentenced to 40 months in prison. On 19 June 2018, Phillips was sighted by two police officers on the cycleway in Chester. Phillips, who was riding a stolen moped, made off from officers despite being told to stop. Phillips lost control of his stolen moped and came off landing on his feet, and continued, running along the canal towpath towards Blacon. He was chased by one of the officers along the tow path discarding his motorbike helmet in the canal, and continued onto fields while the other officer stayed with the moped. The officer searched under the moped seat and found a number of items including a mobile phone, scales and a quantity of Crack cocaine with the street value of up to £6300. The officer chasing lost sight of Phillips. DNA evidence recovered from the items seized including the helmet positively identified the male to be Kyle Phillips. On the 8th November 2018, Phillips was detained and arrested by officers at Gatwick Airport where he was subsequently transported back up to Chester and interviewed.



PC Gill Lee-Waters said: *"This is a great result and shows that we are actively trying to catch those drug dealing in Cheshire. Residents tell us drug dealing is something that causes them a real concern and we understand the impact it has on them. We are continuing to actively target those who sell drugs in our communities, so if you see drug dealing, please let us know by calling 101 or contacting us through our website. With your help we can take these people off the streets, making our communities safer."*

Class A drugs dealer from Chester jailed

A 50-year-old man from Chester has been jailed after admitting class A drug dealing offences.

More than 100 wraps of heroin and crack cocaine were seized when officers executed a warrant at Shaun Shirliff's home in Bouverie Street. The drugs seized during the raid had a street value of more than £1,300. The vast majority of the drugs were in a plastic bag that fell out of one of Shirliff's pockets as he was being arrested. Officers investigating county lines drug dealing carried out the raid at around 4pm on Thursday 9 April. They did so after receiving intelligence indicating that the address was being used as a base for drug dealing. Pieces of paper containing information and figures that experts believe relate to drug dealing were found during the raid. Shirliff was subsequently charged with two counts of possession with intent to supply class A drugs (heroin and crack cocaine). He pleaded guilty to the offences and was sentenced at Chester



Crown Court on Wednesday 3 June. Shirtliff was jailed for four years and ordered to pay a £181 victim surcharge.

Detective Sergeant Stuart Needham, of Chester Local Policing Unit (LPU), said: *“I would like to thank all the officers involved in this case for all their hard work in securing this conviction. Due to their endeavours, a drug dealer is behind bars facing the consequences of his actions and more than £1,300 worth of heroin and crack cocaine has been intercepted before it could be sold on our streets. Removing those involved in dealing illegal drugs from our streets is of paramount importance as they have a hugely detrimental impact on our communities. They cause untold damage to the lives of both the people who get addicted to them and the wider community who suffer from the resulting crime. Drug dealing in Chester or anywhere else in Cheshire will not be tolerated and I hope this case deters others from getting involved in the supply of illegal drugs.”*

Detective Constable Keith Campbell, who led the investigation on behalf of Chester LPU, added: *“I am delighted that Shirtliff has been jailed and our focus now shifts to other offenders who blight communities with illegal drugs. As this case shows, information we receive from members of the public plays a key role in our fight against illegal drugs and those who supply them. I urge anyone with any information about suspected drug related activity in their community to get in touch. You will be listened to and we will investigate the matter. You can report suspected drug dealing to us directly by calling 101 or via our website at <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/ro/report>. Alternatively, information can also be given anonymously, via Crimestoppers, on 0800 555 111.”*

Police in Chester appeal for information following sexual assault

Police are appealing for witnesses after a 16-year-old girl was sexually assaulted at Chester bus station.

The teenager was sitting at the bus station off George Street between 7.50pm and 9.20pm on 1 June when a man sat beside her. At some point the man sexually assaulted the teenager.

DC Faye Taylor said: *“The victim was left shocked by the ordeal and is being supported by officers. We have increased patrols in the area to provide reassurance and to make enquiries, including checking CCTV. The bus station had a number of people passing through at the time, so I would urge anyone who has seen anything to contact me.”*

As part of enquiries a 33-year-old man has been arrested and released on bail pending further enquiries. Anyone with information should contact Cheshire police on 101 or via <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/ro/report/> quoting IML 719979. Alternatively information can be given anonymously by contacting Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Eight men arrested by officers investigating a series of burglary and theft incidents



Officers investigating a number of burglary and theft incidents across Cheshire and Merseyside have arrested eight men following a series of dawn raids.

Warrants were executed simultaneously at addresses in Widnes and St Helens at around 8am on Wednesday 3 June. Eight men – two 18-year-olds and the others aged 24, 25, 29, 30, 50 and 58 – were subsequently arrested on suspicion of conspiracy to commit theft and burglary. After being questioned in custody, they have been released on conditional bail pending further enquiries.

Detective Inspector Ian Whiley, of Widnes Local Policing Unit (LPU), said: *“The raids – six in Widnes and one in St Helens – were carried out as part of Cheshire Constabulary’s ongoing mission to bring those involved in serious and organised crime to justice. They followed extensive enquiries regarding a number of burglaries and thefts across Cheshire and Merseyside. Officers from Widnes LPU have been gathering evidence and intelligence behind the scenes and the extensive work has now led to eight men being arrested on suspicion of conspiracy to commit burglaries and thefts. I hope that this operation reassures communities that we are committed to doing all we can to tackle this type of criminality.”*

The raids were conducted by Widnes LPU officers, in collaboration with Halton Borough Council as part of the Safer Halton Partnership. Officers subsequently carried out extensive searches of all the addresses. They seized two vehicles that are believed to have been used to commit crimes. Officers also seized what is believed to be stolen property.

DI Whiley added: *“Now that the properties have been searched, further evidence has been gathered and the men have been released on conditional bail, we will progress our investigation accordingly.”*

Warning issued following surge in fraud offences across Cheshire

Cheshire Constabulary is warning residents to be vigilant following a significant increase in fraud offences.

Since the start of the coronavirus pandemic the force has seen a 22 per cent increase in the number of reports of fraud across the county. The wide variety of fraud offences reported include online shopping scams, fraudulent emails, hoax text messages, cold callers and even fraudulent pet sales. Many of the offenders target the most vulnerable members of the community.

Detective Superintendent Sarah Pengelly said: *“We don’t want to scare people during this difficult time, but sadly criminals will use every opportunity to defraud innocent people, despite the ongoing pandemic. The people committing these offences are not small-time criminals. They are part of larger organised crime groups who undertake sophisticated operations with the aim of fraudulently obtaining as much money as possible. They can contact you by phone, email, text, on social media or in person. They will try to trick you into parting with your money or personal information, or buying goods or services that don’t exist. These gangs don’t just target individuals, they also target business. Here in Cheshire we have had a number of recent cases of fraudsters obtaining large amounts of money from independent businesses trying to operate during this difficult time. In one case a company in Runcorn was defrauded out of £1 million, while a Widnes company lost £65,000. These were sophisticated frauds whereby the fraudster impersonated the Chief Executive Officer of the company in order to access the cash. Thankfully, in both cases the victim’s bank was able to recover the money. However, they act as a reminder of how important it is for everyone to be aware of this type of crime and to be vigilant at all times. We are committed to doing all that we can to close down fraudulent websites, stop fake sales and ultimately bring those responsible to justice, but there are also a number of simple steps that everyone can take to protect themselves from falling victims to these crimes.”*

If you are approached unexpectedly, whether that be face-to-face, over the phone or via email, remember to:

- **Stop:** Taking a moment to think before parting with your money or information could keep you safe.
- **Challenge:** Could it be fake? It is okay to reject, refuse or ignore any requests. Only criminals will try to rush or panic you.
- **Protect:** Contact your bank immediately if you think you have fallen victim to a scam and report it to the police or contact Action Fraud.

The police, or your bank, will never ask you to withdraw money or transfer it to a different account. They will also never ask you to reveal your full banking password or PIN. Do not click on links or attachments in unexpected or suspicious texts or emails, and you can confirm that requests are genuine by using a known number or email address to contact organisations directly. To keep yourself secure online, ensure that you are using the latest software, apps and operating systems on your phones, tablets and laptops. Update these regularly or set your devices to automatically update so that you do not have to worry.

Cheshire's Police and Crime Commissioner David Keane said: *"It is despicable that fraudsters are exploiting this public health emergency and targeting the most vulnerable people in our communities at a time when they are more vulnerable than ever. Police in Cheshire are continuing to work hard to keep us safe in these uncertain times and I urge you to follow the key scam advice to help you stay safe in your homes."*

If you think you have fallen for a scam contact your bank immediately and report it to Cheshire Constabulary on 101. Alternatively, you can contact Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040 or via actionfraud.police.uk. You can report suspicious texts by forwarding the original message to 7726, which spells SPAM on your keypad. You can report suspicious emails by forwarding the original message to report@phishing.gov.uk.

UK police stand with those appalled by George Floyd death

UK police leaders have come together and published a statement about George Floyd's death.

Chief constables from forces across the country, the chair of the National Police Chiefs' Council, the chief executive of the College of Policing and the President of the Police Superintendents' Association have spoken following the death of George Floyd and the events that have followed in the United States. They said: *"We stand alongside all those across the globe who are appalled and horrified by the way George Floyd lost his life. Justice and accountability should follow. We are also appalled to see the violence and damage that has happened in so many US cities since then. Our hearts go out to all those affected by these terrible events and hope that peace and order will soon be restored. In the UK we have a long established tradition of policing by consent, working in communities to prevent crime and solve problems. Officers are trained to use force proportionately, lawfully and only when absolutely necessary. We strive to continuously learn and improve. We will tackle bias, racism or discrimination wherever we find it. Policing is complex and challenging and sometimes we fall short. When we do, we are not afraid to shine a light on injustices or to be held to account. The relationship between the police and the public in the UK is strong but there is always more to do. Every day, up and down the country, officers and staff are working to strengthen those relationships and address concerns. Only by working closely with our communities do we build trust and help keep people safe. We know people want to make their voices heard. The right to lawful protest is key part of any democracy, which UK police uphold and facilitate. But coronavirus remains a deadly disease and there are still restrictions in place to prevent its spread, which include not gathering outside in groups of more than six people. So for whatever reason people want to come together, we ask that people continue to work with officers at this challenging time."*

The legislation around the maximum number of people in gatherings varies across the devolved nations of the UK.

Martin Hewitt, Chair of the National Police Chiefs' Council

Mike Cunningham, Chief Executive of the College of Policing

Paul Griffiths, President of the Police Superintendents' Association

Rochdale man charged with driving offences following collision in Warrington

A 38-year-old man has been charged with driving offences following a collision in Warrington.

Jim Loveridge, of Pringle Street, Rochdale, was arrested on Station Road, Warrington, at around 4pm on Friday 29 May. He has since been charged with dangerous driving, failing to stop after a collision and driving without insurance. The charges relate to a collision involving a Ford Transit van and a Hyundai i30 car at the junction of St Mary's Road and the A57 Liverpool Road in Warrington. No-one had to go to hospital as a result of the collision, which occurred at around 3.50pm on Friday 29 May. The junction was closed for nearly two hours as a result of the collision. Loveridge has been released on conditional bail and is set to appear at Warrington Magistrates' Court on Thursday 2 July.

Latest Cheshire Appeals

Appeal following inappropriate touching offence at a Warrington park

Detectives investigating an incident in Warrington are appealing for information from members of the public.

It occurred at Alexandra Park in Stockton Heath at around 10pm on Saturday 30 May. The victim, a local woman in her 40s, was walking her dogs in the park. A stranger walked up to her and inappropriately touched the victim over her clothing. At that point one of the victim's dogs bit the unknown man. He then walked off along Fairfield Road towards the swing bridge that leads to Wilderspool Causeway. The offender is described as white, around 5' 9" tall with a slim build. He looked to be in his mid-30s and had short dark hair and was wearing dark clothing.

Enquiries in relation to the incident are ongoing and detectives are urging anyone who was in the area and witnessed anything that may aid their investigation to come forward. They also want to speak to anyone who believes they may know who the offender is, or have CCTV or dashcam footage of him.

Detective Constable Lee Ellis, of Warrington CID, said: *"The victim has understandably been left shaken up by what happened. She is being supported by specialist officers. I would like to reassure residents that this is believed to be an isolated incident, we have stepped up patrols in the area and we are doing everything we can to identify the offender and make him face the consequences of his actions. As part of our ongoing enquiries we are appealing for anyone who was in the area and saw the incident, or anything else that may help the investigation, to contact us at Warrington Police Station. We are particularly keen to hear from the people who were in the park when the incident occurred. We also want to talk to anyone who believes that they may know the identity of the offender, or have footage of him."*

Anyone with information or CCTV or dashcam footage that could assist the investigation should call Cheshire Constabulary on 101, quoting IML 718193, give the details via <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/ro/report> or contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Appeal for information following Runcorn robbery

Detectives are appealing for information from the public following a robbery in Runcorn.

The victim, a 25-year-old man from the town, was walking along the Bridgewater Canal's towpath from the direction of Preston Brook Marina when the incident occurred between 12.30pm and 12.45pm on Thursday 4 June. As he approached the bridge that goes over the canal at Red Brow Lane he was accosted by two males wearing all dark clothing and black face coverings. One of them was armed with a knife. The offenders, who were around 5' 10" to 6' tall, demanded a phone from the victim. He did not have a phone on him so they stole other personal items before running off towards the mini roundabout at the end of Red Brow Lane that leads to Windmill Hill and Murdishaw. Enquiries in relation to the incident are ongoing and detectives are urging anyone who was in the area and witnessed anything that may help their investigation to get in touch.

Detective Constable Sophie Davies, of Runcorn Local Policing Unit, said: *"This incident has understandably left the victim extremely shaken up. I would like to reassure Runcorn residents that this appears to be an isolated incident, we have stepped up patrols in the area and we are determined to establish the identities of the offenders and make them face the consequences of committing such a serious offence. Enquiries are ongoing and I urge anyone who was in the area and believes that they may have seen the offenders to contact the team here at Runcorn Police Station. The same goes for anyone who thinks they may know who the offenders are or have CCTV or dashcam footage of them."*

Anyone with information or footage that may aid the investigation should call Cheshire Constabulary on 101, quoting IML 722117, [give the details via our website](#) or contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Runcorn LPU Chief Inspector Sarah Heath added: *"We are committed to doing all that we can to tackle knife crime in the town. It is an issue that we take extremely seriously and Runcorn Local Policing Unit will ensure that anyone found to be carrying a knife or committing a knife related offence in the town is brought to justice. But the police cannot beat knife crime without the help of the local community and we urge anyone with information about people who may be carrying knives to come forward and speak to us or independent charity Crimestoppers."*

Appeal following serious assault in Widnes

Detectives are appealing for information from members of the public following a serious assault in Widnes town centre.

A 26-year-old man from the town was attacked by a group of three or four males as he walked along an alleyway between Kingsway and Sharp Street. The incident, which occurred at around 7.30pm on Sunday 31 May, left the victim with a serious facial injury. He was taken to hospital in an ambulance and has since been discharged after receiving treatment. The offenders were wearing dark clothing and had their faces covered with masks and balaclavas. Enquiries in relation to the incident are ongoing and detectives are urging anyone who was in the area and witnessed anything that may aid their investigation to get in touch. They

also want to speak to anyone who believes they may know the identities of the offenders, or have CCTV or dashcam footage of them.

Detective Constable Gary McClatchey, of Widnes CID, said: *“This was a terrifying incident that left the victim with a serious facial injury and extremely shaken up. I would like to reassure residents that this appears to be an isolated incident and we are determined to establish the identities of those responsible for the unprovoked assault and bring them to justice. As part of our enquiries we want to hear from anyone who was in the area that night and believes they may have seen something relevant to our investigation. We also want to speak to anyone who thinks they may know who the offenders are, or have footage of them.”*

Anyone with information or CCTV or dashcam footage that could help the ongoing investigation should call Cheshire Constabulary on 101, quoting IML 772051, give the details via <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/ro/report> or contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Appeal renewed following Parkgate collision

Officers investigating a collision in Parkgate have renewed their appeal for information.

At around 3.25pm on Wednesday 20 May officers were informed of a collision involving a cyclist and a pedestrian at The Parade in Neston. The incident occurred near to Parkgate Takeaway at approximately 1.10pm that day. The pedestrian, a 68-year-old woman from Wirral, sustained serious leg injuries as a result of the collision. The cyclist, a 31-year-old woman from Ellesmere Port, sustained minor injuries. Following their initial enquiries, officers are now appealing for a number of people who were seen in the area at the time of the collision to get in touch. It is believed that they may be able to assist with the investigation.

PC Kevin Owen said: *“Enquiries in relation to the incident are ongoing and officers are keen to hear from anyone who witnessed the incident. We particularly want to speak to a man and a woman, who both looked to be in their late 20s and were sat on a bench outside Elephant Coffee Lounge. The man was white and had short wavy brown hair. He was wearing glasses, a black T-shirt, light grey shorts and dark coloured adidas trainers with white stripes. The woman was also white. She had long brown hair in a ponytail and was wearing sunglasses, a white vest top, blue jeans and dark coloured pumps. We also want to hear from a man and a woman who walked past the pedestrian just seconds before the collision occurred. The man was white, middle aged had fair hair. He was wearing a blue and red checked shirt, blue jeans and blue shoes with a white sole. The woman was also white and middle aged. She had short fair hair and was wearing a blue and white checked sleeveless top and white shorts. I urge the prospective witnesses, as well as anyone who believes they may know who they are, to contact the team here at Neston so that we can progress our investigation.”*

Anyone with any information that may help the investigation is asked to call Cheshire Constabulary on 101, quoting IML 709267, or visit <https://www.cheshire.police.uk/ro/report> .

Appeal following arson incident in Congleton

Officers investigating an arson incident in Congleton are appealing for information from members of the public.



Firefighters were notified of a fire at the former Moody Hall Nursing Home at around 2.15pm on Monday 1 June. They were able to extinguish the blaze at the now derelict building in Moody Street before it could spread beyond the room it started in. Enquiries in relation to the incident are ongoing and officers are urging anyone with any information or footage that may help their investigation to get in touch.

Police Constable Pyatt said: *“A fire investigator has confirmed that the fire was started deliberately. It caused only moderate damage to one of the rooms in the derelict building, but the consequences of this incident could have been far worse. Fire spreads quickly and can endanger lives as well as properties. I would like to reassure members of the community that this is believed to be an isolated incident and we are doing everything we can to establish who started the fire and make them face the consequences of their actions. Enquiries are ongoing and as part of our investigation we want to speak to anyone who was in the area and saw anything suspicious. We also want to talk to anyone who thinks they may know who started the fire, or have CCTV or dashcam footage of them.”*

Anyone with information or footage that may aid the investigation should call Cheshire Constabulary on 101, quoting IML 719548, [give the details via our website](#) or contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Appeal after teenager is assaulted in Runcorn robbery

Detectives are appealing for information from members of the public after a teenaged boy was assaulted and had his mobile phone stolen in a Runcorn robbery.

The incident occurred in Beechwood at around 10.45pm on Friday 29 May. The victim, a 16-year-old from Runcorn, had his mobile phone snatched out of his hand as he walked past two men in an alleyway near to Beechwood Stores. As the victim tried to get his phone back, one of the men pushed him to the ground. Both of the offenders then kicked him before running off in the direction that they came from, towards Ullswater Grove. The offenders are both described as being around 20 to 30 years old and having medium builds. One of them was approximately 5' 10" to 6' 1" tall and had a black beard. He was wearing a thin black bubble coat with the hood up and dark cargo trousers. The other was shorter, at around 5' 10", and was wearing a black jacket with the hood up and dark tracksuit bottoms. Enquiries in relation to the robbery are ongoing and detectives are urging anyone with any information or footage that may aid their investigation to come forward.

Detective Constable Paul Cullen, of Runcorn Local Policing Unit, said: *“Thankfully the victim only sustained minor injuries as a result of the incident, but he has understandably been left extremely shaken up. He was subjected to a terrifying ordeal. I would like to reassure members of the community that this is believed to be an isolated incident and we are determined to establish the identities of the offenders and bring them to justice. Enquiries are ongoing and I urge anyone who was in the area and saw anything that may help our investigation to contact us at Runcorn Police Station. The same goes for anyone who thinks they may know who the offenders are or have CCTV or dashcam footage of them.”*

Anyone with information or footage that may be relevant to the investigation should call Cheshire Constabulary on 101, quoting IML 717668, or [give the details via our website](#). Alternatively, information can be reported to Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

To find out further information about the Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Association, to log into your account or for Cheshire Neighbourhood Watch Literature please visit our website: <http://cheshire.ourwatch.org.uk/>